

# THE CALEDONIAN.

And what think you Vermonters, would be the effect if in this best of causes we had enlisted, *secretly*, and *determinedly*, all the talent which now favors our cause, and which is now quietly at work? Our public then would be inviolate and our legislature would heartily vote supplies to prosecute this war against ignorance. How easy the effort, how glorious the result! Should not some effort be made to this effect? According to the report of our State Superintendent, there are 22,800 youth in our commonwealth, who do not attend our public schools, and the number in the summer would be much greater. Can we by no means secure their attendance? We can do it only by impressing upon the public its relations to education. And how can this be done more effectually than by the united efforts of our State organ and the county papers?

The facts brought forward in the report of our State Superintendent, relative to the number who do not attend our Winter Schools, are of a painful nature; and how alarming does it become, when we consider that these thousands are soon to occupy the places of those now acting—*to receive the inheritances of our fathers*,—brought hither, inestimable, as we believe. What a temptation for sex-zeal, when there is such a mass to be saved! Let us remove the temptation of the offence will cease.

The condition of our districts is exceedingly deplorable. The sparseness of our population throws many obstacles in our way, and this uniting with the smallness of the districts is cause of manifold disadvantages. It is evident that a small district cannot possess the same funds, with large ones, and this poverty of means brings as a consequence, the evils of cheap teachers—of bad school houses—of short schools. Either of which is an evil of sufficient magnitude to cause an action among us to counteract it. To show somewhat our condition in this respect, as compared with other States, I quote from our State Superintendent's report. "To increase the extent of the districts in this State, so as to embrace the same population, and number of schools as do those of New York, it would be necessary to reduce our number of districts one-half. This, however, in consequence of the sparseness of our population, would occasion too great inconvenience to be desirable, but it would surely seem that they might be made to embrace the same extent of territory, as do those of New York; and to effect this a reduction of 20 per cent, on our present number, would be requisite. This would give an average, about 46 scholars to a district, and population of 138—adding a very considerable amount to the strength of the districts, and their ability to support competent schools. Small districts are said, and truly, to be the paradise of ignorant teachers. But this class of beings is not so valuable and useful to the world, that we need feel any compunction in breaking up their haunts, and desolating their pleasant places."

It is truly desirable that our schools should be what they pretend to be, *district* schools, and not the schools of clans and tribes, or of families even, as so often the case.

I would here call the attention of every one who feels an interest in our Common Schools to the First annual Report of the State Superintendent, it is a document which is, and will ever be, an honor to our State.

At the time of the writing of this, the correspondent was not fully aware of the preparations which were being made towards the establishment of a State periodical devoted in part to the interests of education. Information is now within his possession, which would indicate an extension of this number, and knowing the amount of zeal and ability which will be manifested in the cause, there can be no doubt of the sound character and ultimate success of the periodical.

[To be concluded next week.]

## The Battle of the Brazito.

PARTITION OF MO. LIGHT ARTILLERY, &

Camp of the Brazito, Rio Grande, Dec. 26, 1846.

DEAR SIR.—I can only write to you a few lines, being on the point of breaking up camp, the detachment at Fra Cristobal, overtook Col. Doniphan's command, Major Gilpin, with 250 men, had previously left for El Paso, and Col. Jackson was following him with 300 men. Col. Doniphan had but 150 men with him, the remainder of his regiment being sick, attending on the sick, and scattered about the country. From Fra Cristobal, one detachment marched with Colonel Doniphan south, when at the Legion of the Jornada del Manto, news reached us through an express, sent by Major Gilpin, that the Mexicans had determined to resist at El Paso, and had collected a considerable number of troops, intending to give us battle. An express had been sent to Santa Fe for part of the artillery under Major Clark, but no news had, as yet, reached us from there, so that the detachment of thirty men from the three companies of our corps, are all that are here from the battalion. At the southern end of the Jornada, ten miles north of Dona, the traders had encamped. Contradictory rumors of the enemy's approach reached us daily. Yesterday (Christmas day) when we had just arrived in camp here, with about five hundred men, had unsaddled our animals, and most of the men were engaged in carrying wood and water, the news was brought into camp, of the enemy's being in sight and advancing. It was about two o'clock, P.M., and the day was very pleasant. Our horses grazing some distance from camp at the time, we formed a single line, and determined to meet the enemy as infantry. Their attack being evidently designed on the left flank, near which was our wagon train, one detachment was ordered from the extreme right to the left, where we soon took up our position. One piece of artillery, 500 regular lancers and cavalry, and one hundred regular infantry, besides some five hundred militia troops from El Paso, composed the enemy's force, according to the best information I can obtain. The enemy had ranged themselves on the east, within a mile of our line, the mountains in their rear. In our rear was the river, with a little brushwood on its banks.

Previous to the encounter, a Lieutenant from their ranks came forward, waving a black flag in his hand, but halted when within one hundred steps of our line. Thomas Caldwell, our interpreter, rode out to meet him. The messenger with the black flag of defiance, demanded that the Commander should come into their camp and speak to their General. The reply was, "If your General wants to see our Commander, let him come here." "We shall break your ranks, then, and take him there," was the retort of the Mexican. "Come and take him," said our interpreter, unwittingly using the phrase of the Spaniards at Thermopylae. "A curse on you, prepare for a charge," cried the Mexican. We give no quarters and ask none," and waving his black flag gracefully over his head, galloped

ed back towards the enemy's line. Their charge was made by the dragoons from their right, directed upon our left flank, bringing our detachment into the closest fire—their infantry, with one howitzer with them, at the same time attacking our right flank.

Their charge was a handsome one, but was too well and too coolly met to break our line.

After their fire had been spent, their front column being at about one hundred steps from the front of our flank, our line poured a volley into them, which, being a few times repeated, created such a havoc in their columns, that their forces wheeled to the left, retreating from our fire, and in their flight made an attack on the provision train. Here they met a very warm reception, and were soon compelled to fly in all directions and in the utmost confusion. Their infantry had been put to flight even before, and the Howard County company, under the command of Lieut. N. Wright, taking advantage of their position, on the route of the enemy, charged upon them and took their canon from them; this was soon manned by the artillery detachment in Col. Mitchell's escort. The enemy had by this time fled, leaving their arms, provisions, and other stores, on the field of battle.

A small body of mounted men, under the command of Capt. Reid, had by this time gathered together in a line and charged upon the enemy, pursuing them into the mountains where they sought refuge.

The number of their dead is said to be thirty—that of their wounded was slight, as far as ascertained. We lost not a single man, and had but seven slightly wounded—we took eight prisoners, six of whom died last night. Thus ended the battle of the Brazito, the first battle of the Army of the West, and as bravely fought by our men as ever men fought at any engagement.

We have every reason to believe that there is more in store for us. C. H. KIRKBBEN.

## NEWS FROM THE ARMY and MEXICO.

Intelligence from Mexico to Feb. 5, has been received by way of Havana, as follows:

The Church had resisted the seizure of its property, and Santa Anna, convinced of the unpopularity of the confiscation act, had written to Congress urging its modification or repeal. A bill was therupon submitted, repealing the obnoxious law, and authorizing the government to receive a loan from the energy of \$150,000 per month, which, it was understood, they would consent to advance on peace was restored.

Santa Anna had seized ninety-eight bars of silver, mostly belonging to Spanish merchants at San Luis, for which he had given his personal guarantee. The country around had been subjected to a requisition for supplies without prospect of remuneration.

Up to the 7th ult, great activity was manifested at Vera Cruz, in preparation to resist an attack.

The New Orleans Bulletin of the 4th, has some interesting information concerning the position, numbers, &c. of our troops, derived from officers of the army who have just arrived from Mexico. We copy part of this article.

As regards the actual position of things, it is believed that Santa Anna has no idea of advancing from San Luis, with a view to attack Gen. Taylor at Saltillo, or rather twenty miles in advance of that place, where he is now posted with the main body of his army. The force under the actual command of General Taylor, is about 6,000 men, all volunteers, except four batteries of artillery, and two squadrons of dragoons—the former about 300 men, and the latter 150 in all. The force at Monterey is about 2,000 men—also volunteers. Gen. Taylor has not a regular infantry soldier with him, the whole having been withdrawn for the operations on the sea coast under Gen. Scott—he is, however, to be reinforced by five or six regiments of the volunteers, actually arrived, or shortly expected, and when joined by them, his intention, and indeed his orders are, to move forward, and he is making all his arrangements to do by the first of April. Among other preparations, he is constructing small water tanks, to be carried on pack mules, with a supply of that necessary, to enable the army to cross the desert, where for a distance of ninety miles there is only one watering place, and that only for a limited number at a time—a mile will carry two of these miniature tanks, each containing 13 to 20 gallons.

The difficulties of the march between Saltillo and San Luis may be judged from the fact, that the orders of Paredes, which fell into our hands, were, that in carrying forward the troops that subsequently defended Monterrey, they were particularly instructed not to allow them to cross the desert in larger bodies than five hundred at a time, on account of the small supply of water, even at the watering place alluded to; and this circumstance of itself would oppose a great, if not insuperable, obstacle to any advance of Santa Anna, in sufficient force at one time to attack Gen. Taylor, as he would not attempt to cross in small detachments in face of our army.

At the present moment General Taylor has a most ample supply of provisions, and also full means of transportation, all of which latter is actively employed in bringing up full supplies of everything from Camargo, preparing to the intended forward movement, for which the most extensive and active preparations are being made. We learn the transportation means at present are at least 1,000 wagons, all with good mule teams, which are procured there at \$15 to \$25 each, and besides which there will be a large body of pack mules—indeed the latter will be the main dependence after leaving Saltillo, on account of the State of the road. The position at Saltillo is well prepared to resist any attempt of the enemy, and not the least fear is entertained as to the result, should such an improbable event as an attack from Santa Anna occur; as to Monterrey, it is prepared to resist, successfully, the entire Mexican Army, could it be brought together, the Whigs of New Hampshire stand acquitted before the world of all blame in the matter.

In reviewing the arguments employed by us in defence of the principles and measures of the Whig party, and of the domestic policy of our State, we think of nothing to change—no sentiment to modify; no position not in strict accordance with truth, justice, humanity, and the vital interests of the Union.—Were the ground to be retravelled, we should walk in the same path—utter the same sentiments—adhere to the same measures,—satisfied, that when the country shall have reaped the full harvest of evil in store for her, the fruit of this General Administration, the bulk of the people will see, and it is to be hoped, acknowledge, that they who resisted its measures were in the right—all others in the wrong.

In announcing the result of this election, the Independent Democrat says:

We have well known all the while, how

With regard to subsequent operations, the Bulletin says an advance into the interior of Mexico will be very difficult and comparatively fruitless. Supplies can be had, but must be paid for liberally; and the policy of the enemy will probably be to harass the march, cut off stragglers, &c., and not risk a general engagement.

The correspondents of *La Pátria* from Tampico, noticing the report of the battle between Santa Anna and General Taylor near Saltillo say that it is altogether improbable, as Santa Anna at the last accounts, which are very recent, was at San Luis, engaged in arranging his forces. When the American forces leave for Vera Cruz, it is said that General Urrea will march from Tula with a column of 8 or 9,000 men against Tampico. Urrea's force is composed one third part of cavalry, with two battalions of Artillery. It is his intention to attack Tampico simultaneously with the American attack on Vera Cruz. This officer is also provided with a force of 4,000 men to march on Matamoras. General Arista is still in the city of Mexico, awaiting his charges relating to his conduct at the battles of the 8th and 9th of May.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTION.**

The Boston Atlas has fuller returns than any other paper of the election in N. Hampshire—all but 9 towns of the vote for Governor. The vote is as follows:

Williams,	39,236
Colby,	20,673
Berry,	8,714
	—29,687

Maj. for Williams, 539

The towns to be heard from will increase Williams' majority slightly. So it seems that in a vote of about 60,000, Williams runs in by a few hundred. He lacked something like a thousand of an election last year.

Colby was supported by the Whigs, Berry by the Independent Democrats and the Liberty party, and Williams by the Radicals.

The radical vote is increased from last year about 3,000, the Whig vote some over 3,000 of

we think and the Independent and Liberty vote has decreased enough to let Williams squeeze in by a few hundred in a State that usually has given 8 or 10,000 Locofoe majorities.

The House stands as follows—according to the corrected table of the Atlas.

Counties.	Whig.	Ind.	Lib.	Rad.
Rockingham,	17	6	1	19
Stratford,	15	3	0	4
Bolton,	3	0	0	14
Carroll,	2	5	0	9
Merrimack,	7	5	1	22
Hillsborough,	28	7	2	29
Cheshire,	18	0	0	0
Sullivan,	6	3	0	8
Cook,	1	0	0	0
Grafton,	11	8	0	17
Total,	160	37	4	132

Five to be heard from—probably all radicals. Seven Radical Senators elected and probably three Anti-radicals, and perhaps four. In regard to the Congressional vote the Atlas has the following summary:

Later returns than the above make the House stand, Whigs, 101, Independents, 36, Liberty, 4, Locofos, 130. It will be a "close fit."

In the First Congressional District, in 34 towns, the vote is as follows:

Town (whig)	4362
Total (locos)	1624

Anti-Radical majority, 2073

In the Second District, in 31 towns. Pease (locos) has 5735 All others 4194

Majority, 1551

In the Third, in 47 towns. Wilson (whig) 6205

Preston (ind.) 1484

Moulton (locos) 7779

Anti-Radical majority, 2062

In the Fourth District, in 45 towns. Johnson (locos) has 5737 All others have 5737

Johnson's majority, 20

This will be increased to five or six hundred. If our friends in the first and third districts do their duty, the State will be represented in Congress by two Locos, and two Alives.

The Statesman has the following comments upon the result:

**THE STATE ELECTION.**

THURSDAY MORNING, 8 o'clock.—We sit down to write this article with the returns of 113 towns before us, embracing about three-fifths of the vote of the State. These returns if we are correct in our computation of the losses and gains, exhibit a Radical net gain of 1008, and tend to the belief that their candidate for Governor is elected by a small majority, and that they will secure the ascendancy in the Legislature by a few votes.

Although such a result is deeply deplorable—and especially so at this alarming

period in the history of the country—it is a source of the deepest satisfaction to the Whigs of New Hampshire, that they have done their whole duty.

The presses of the party—their public speakers—the men in active life—have performed all which could be required of them, as citizens and patriots, to keep the State in the noble position assumed one year ago; and if she be brought to sustain a severe consumption of evil, let us hope that she will recover.

We find the Whigs in the lead, and the Radicals in the rear. In our rear was the river, with a little brushwood on its banks.

At the encounter, a Lieutenant from their ranks came forward, waving a black flag in his hand, but halted when within one hundred steps of our line. Thomas Caldwell, our interpreter, rode out to meet him.

The messenger with the black flag of defiance, demanded that the Commander should come into their camp and speak to their General. The reply was, "If your General wants to see our Commander, let him come here."

"We shall break your ranks, then, and take him there," was the retort of the Mexican. "Come and take him," said our interpreter, unwittingly using the phrase of the Spaniards at Thermopylae. "A curse on you, prepare for a charge," cried the Mexican. "We give no quarters and ask none," and waving his black flag gracefully over his head, galloped

desperately and untiring were the efforts of our opponents. We have seen them pouring out their money like water. We have witnessed with what recklessness they have staked both their souls and bodies on this contest. But we did not believe they could succeed. We did not believe the free sons of New Hampshire, after having once discarded the base men who have disgraced and betrayed their country, could ever again trust them, till deep and long repentance should atone for past transgression.

"Of all the causes which have produced a result, over which the friends of human liberty everywhere will mourn, we have not time now to speak. The radicals have now elected three Councillors—seven Senators, and possibly a majority in the House. This however, is so close, that the exact state of parties there may not be certainly known till the legislature meets. In conclusion, we would say to our friends, be of good cheer.